

I applaud the dedication of this Millwrights union to their organization and advocacy of worker's rights. They have worked hard to ensure that their members have safe work places, receive fair benefits and earn livable wages. But beyond this, the Millwrights have promoted the idea of being responsible members of the community. They encourage members to reach out to others and to become active, informed citizens.

The Millwright apprenticeship programs combine both academic and hands-on experience. Over a period of years these trades people have become the most productive in their craft. It is just such performance that broadly results in good products and a strong economy. The Millwrights, for over 100 years, have been a part of the fabric of our great state. In fact, they have significantly contributed to the building of the culture and infrastructure of Minnesota.

It is my pleasure to take this opportunity to congratulate Local #548 on 100 years of service and advocacy, and I wish them the best in the next century. I am confident they'll keep their faith in one another and in their union solidarity.

ROSIE THE RIVETER/WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to create the "Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historic Park" in Richmond, California—a feature of our National Park system that will recognize and salute the role of the homefront during World War II and particularly the significant changes in the lives of women and minorities and the major social changes that resulted from this era.

The images of Rosie the Riveter and Wendy the Welder, and the films of giant Liberty and Victory ships sliding into the water are all familiar to millions of Americans. These features of home front life during the war, and the demographic changes and social institutions that evolved during the 1940s, significantly shaped the nature of post-war American life for the remainder of the 20th century. Richmond was ground zero for the dizzying home front innovations and stresses that marked the period, and is a perfect place to educate future generations of Americans about the experiences of our people during World War II.

The House passed my legislation in the last Congress (H.R. 3910, section 505) to authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a feasibility study to determine if Richmond was a suitable place for designation as an NPS affiliated site and whether to provide technical assistance to the City of Richmond for interpretive functions related to the park, including oral histories from former workers.

That report has now been completed and finds, as we had hoped, that Richmond "played a significant role during the Home Front years." In fact, many of the dry docks, buildings and related infrastructure constructed and operated during the war remains in place, evoking even today a sense of the enormous

commitment of the nation to industrial war production. In 1941–42, four shipyards were built in Richmond with a total employment eventually reaching 98,000. Overall, Richmond housed 56 war-related industries, more than any other city in the United States, producing everything from ships to uniforms and vegetable oil for the war effort. The four Kaiser Yards in Richmond were the largest shipyard construction site on the West Coast and produced 747 ships, more than any other facility in America, including the S.S. *Robert E. Peary* which was constructed in 4 days, 15 hours, and 30 minutes.

Tens of thousands of men, women and children poured into this city on San Francisco Bay and the population of Richmond grew from 24,000 to over 100,000 in just a few short years. These immigrants imposed enormous demands for housing, education, child care, health care and other vital services, and in response, local officials and employers developed innovative approaches for meeting these needs that serve as the precursors to many of our current educational, health and social service programs.

Large numbers of women and minorities sought jobs in the yards in positions formerly occupied by skilled craftsmen, creating both new employment opportunities and labor tensions. By 1944, over a quarter of all those working at the Kaiser yard were women, including over 40 percent of welders and 24 percent of all other craft employees. The racial composition of the area was significantly altered by the wartime economy, with the black population in Richmond rising from about 1 percent to over 13 percent during the decade of the 1940s. Southern whites encountered often for the first time black men and women who demanded equal treatment and equal rights.

The effort to preserve the remaining structures and to build a memorial to the Rosies and Wendys who labored on behalf of the war effort has very much been promoted by local leaders including Mayor Rosemary Corbin, Councilman Tom Butt, Donna Powers, Donna Graves, Sy Zell and many others. Significant local funds have been raised and the city has committed more than \$600,000 for the memorial. I want to recognize the contributions already made by the City of Richmond, as well as Kaiser Permanente, Ford Motor Corporation, Chevron, and others who are strongly committed to this project. My bill builds on these local efforts by providing assistance both for Richmond and to coordinate Home Front sites throughout the country, but we do not acquire property or assume the major responsibility for restoring or managing the exhibits.

Under this legislation, Richmond will not alone be selected to represent the Home Front during World War II/Instead, the major facilities still existing will be preserved and staffed to serve as a means of linking other sites including the Charlestown Navy Yard (Boston) and Springfield Armory National Historic site to assist help historians, interpreters, caretakers and the public to more fully appreciate the role this and other communities played in winning the war and in transforming the nature of post-war America.

We must act now to save the remaining buildings, drydocks, and other facilities that bring this picture to life for future generations of America. Many of these artifacts are aging,

in need of restoration, and threatened by sale or deterioration which will obliterate their historical value. I am hopeful the Committee on Resources will act swiftly to review the Rosie the Riveter Feasibility Study that we commissioned by law in 1998 and then holding hearings on this legislation so that it can be enacted by the Congress this year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday was the Democratic primary in Texas and because of that and other commitments I had made in my congressional district, I was not here in Washington the remainder of the week. This resulted in my missing several roll-call votes. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 46, on a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3699, designating the Joel T. Broyhill Post Office Building—"yea";

Rollcall No. 47, on a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3701, designating the Joseph L. Fisher Post Office Building—"yea";

Rollcall No. 48, on agreeing to the conference report on H.R. 1000, Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century—"yea";

Rollcall No. 49, on passage of H.R. 3843, Small Business Authorization Act—"yea";

Rollcall No. 50, on motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1501, Juvenile Justice Act—"yea";

Rollcall No. 51, on agreeing to H. Res. 441, providing for consideration of H.R. 2372, Private Property Rights Implementation Act of 2000—"yea";

Rollcall No. 52, on agreeing to the Watt of North Carolina amendment to H.R. 2372, Private Property Rights Implementation Act of 2000—"aye";

Rollcall No. 53, on agreeing to the Boehlert of New York substitute amendment to H.R. 2372, Private Property Rights Implementation Act of 2000—"no";

Rollcall No. 54, on motion to recommit H.R. 2372, Private Property Rights Implementation Act of 2000—"no";

Rollcall No. 55, on passage of H.R. 2372, Private Property Rights Implementation Act of 2000—"yea".

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4053, THE UNITED STATES-SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE DEMOCRATIZATION AND BURDENSARING ACT OF 2000

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing H.R. 4053, the United States-Southeastern Europe Democratization and Burdensharing Act of 2000, a measure that authorizes continued assistance for political and economic reforms in the states of Southeastern Europe for fiscal year 2001 under the Foreign Assistance Act and the Support for